

Branch Communica-

July 2006

Supervisors Meeting Notes

Telephone Numbers

Supervisors:

Robert Keifer 544-2249
Joseph Wank 544-3183
John Purcell 544-5890

Township Offices

Branch Police 544-2901
Township Garage 544-3557
Secretary
Joanne Schultz 544-4283
Sewage
Donna Kroh 544-1764
Township Manager
John Andruchek 544-4283

Police Report

The 6 Police officers worked a total of 937 hours. They traveled 5427 miles using 4 police vehicles. 128 Incidents, Assists or Complaints were handled by 6 officers. There were 7 court hearing, 24 traffic citations issues and 6 criminal arrest made.

The report covered the period 5/1/06 to 6/30/06

Looking for old photos of Branch Township. Old buildings, streets, vehicles, parades, fire company's etc. for a book to be printed called: **History of Branch Twp in photos** call Jim Pothering 544-6420. photos will be returned after scanning to computer. Thanks,

The Branch Communicator is a privately published newsletter to provide residents of the Township with information on governance by their elected and appointed Township officials. Opinions expressed are those of the Publisher and do not reflect the opinions of Sponsors nor officials. Questions and comments should be directed to Norm Bertasavage 544-6583.

NOTICE

This will be the last Printed Branch Communicator. The cost of printing and distribution have become too much. A few copies will be available at the township office and the Post Office.

Those of you with computers will be able to read the Communicator on line by going to www.normbert.com and clicking on Branch Communicator.

Citizens Drainage Complaints

Two residents complained to the supervisors about uncontrolled water run-off damaging their property. In Phoenix Park the resident complaint was to be investigated by the Supervisors. The second complaint would be directed to Penn Dot as the run-off was coming from Rte 209 near Dowdenton.

Health Hazard

The DEP report of the meeting of March 14th concerning the processing of untreated sewage sludge revealed that untreated sludge will be brought in from all over the east coast. This sludge will be stored on site until processed.

Supervisor Purcell pointed out that this importation is greater than that reported at the meeting. The storage area is in close proximity to watershed that drains into local water supplies. Leachate from the unprocessed materials could affect the drinking water of residents far beyond the boundaries of the processing site.

Purcell's recommendation was that the Supervisors write letters to the PA Department of Health and the Schuylkill Municipal Water Authority to alert them to the potential health hazards. The Supervisors agreed.

Where's Branch?

When Kane Steel was Kroppy's a home was built next to the plant. Taxes on that home were paid to Branch Township. The house was torn down and a new office building was constructed on the land belonging to the old house. Taxes on this new structure have been paid to Norwegian township. How this land, which was formerly in Branch Township, was transferred to Norwegian was questioned by the Supervisors. The Tax receiver in-

formed the supervisors that the county produces the tax bills for mailing and she can not change the tax location of a property. The Supervisors will look into this matter before yet another block is ceded to Norwegian.

Illegal Immigration Ordinance

The Solicitor is looking into writing an ordinance that will stand up to the Constitution. This reporter pointed out that immigrants are people who renounce allegiance to one nation and swear allegiance to a new nation of which they wish to become citizens. **What we have is a problem with undocumented foreign workers.** The ordinance should address this issue of enforce foreign workers not Illegal immigrants.

Where's the Money?

The money from the Federal Government for the Strossertown bridge still cannot be accounted for. What is accounted for is the demand for additional engineering for the bridge which the township must pay. It was suggested that the Supervisors write a letter to Representative Holden rejecting the grant. To spend over a half million dollars on a structure serving 7 homes is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

School-aged children of these residents will have to walk across the current bridge and garbage from these homes will have to be carried so that the garbage truck will not have to cross the bridge. This way the township tax payers will only be stuck with the \$95,000.00 in unpaid current engineering fees.

West-End Sewage Problems

The DEP will be expecting answers from the Supervisors on sewage for Steins Mill. What this will be hasn't been decided by the BCRSA nor the township.

Sewage Authority News

Donna Kroh, Authority Secretary, will be out of the office for approximately 6 weeks due to medical problems.

Monthly billing of sewage services is now 1384. This will provide \$63,664.00 of income. There is still a short-fall of income over expense of about \$18,000.00 per month.

The board voted to invest funds in the "Invest Program" operated by the PA Treasury Dept.

The board voted to submit the balance due to Doli Construction in the amount of \$11,866.27

The need for a barrier at the Kane Pumping station was discussed and tabled for later consideration

A bill from High Road Contracting in the amount of \$225.00 was received and submitted to Benesch for payment. The bill was due to incorrect lateral information received from Benesch.

An Executive Session was needed by Attorney Ratigan for the purposes of discussing Litigation and Condemnation of property owners.

No response was received from Reilly Township concerning their Act 537 plan and it's impact on the sewage problems of the west end of Branch Township.

American Water Services reported that the effluent quality was very good . Average daily sewage flow was 226,733 gallons.

There were 2 grinder pump calls during June. One was a false alarm, the second was a stuck valve caused by excessive

grease.

Reed bed #2 was weeded and replanted.

The "Supplemental Laboratory Accreditation form" will be completed and mailed by Mike Stewart.

Engineers Report

The review of the as built drawing from Doli for contract C-003 was completed. The engineers time was separate from the amount owed Doli so that the fees can be deducted from the amount owed to Doli.

Benesch reported that information received from American Water Services resulted in a recommendation that reed bed # 2 is needed as reed beds numbers 3 and 4 have been heavily used in the past.

The Township has been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant to upgrade the Veterans Memorial in both Llewellyn and Phoenix Park. The two Memorials will receive \$5,000.00 each for their upgrades.

Voting Booths

The County will pick up the old voting booths in August. The new computer voting will be used in future elections.

Heating Oil

The Supervisors acted to prepay Reedy & Sons for heating oil for the coming year. The cost for 1750 gallons will be \$4,443.00 payable in 3 equal payments.

New Stop Signs

Stop Signs are needed in the Pine Hill and Lytle Street areas.

Spraying for West Nile virus will be conducted by the county.

Up Coming Events : The next supervisors meeting will be *August 28th*. Planning Commission August 1st. Public meetings start at 7PM . Sewage Authority meeting will be August 17th 4:30 PM. Llewellyn Hosey Chicken BBQ Sat Aug 12th 11:00 - 2:00 \$6.00.

Note: Branch Communicators are available on line at www.normbert.com/

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission reviewed a request for a variance by a resident of Sunday Drive. The request was for encroachment of side line requirements for a building extension. The encroachment would place the primary residence within 1 foot of the property line. After discussion with the owners the Commission would not recommend approval of the variance. The Zoning Hearing Board will be notified of this decision.

A letter requesting a land swap between the Good Intent Hose Company and Robert Reedy & Sons was forwarded to Chairman Bell from the Supervisors. A study of deed descriptions is necessary before the swap can be made.

News letter Sponsors

Enbee Tax Service, Federal and State E-filing Service available
544-6583

Don's Classis Restoration & Auto Body Inc
544-8209

Pothering Generators
544-6420